Hughes aid asks for reduced bail

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Former Howard Hughes mining consultant John Meier appealed to a higher court Monday to have his $100,000 cash bail reduced while waiting a Jan. 7 trial for income tax evasion.

The appeal is being forwarded from the federal court here to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, along with supporting documents requested by Meier's attorney, Bob Wyshak.

Wyshak has twice asked Federal Judge Roger D. Foley to reduce his client's bail and both times he has denied the request. However, on Oct. 3 he did lift the travel restructions formerly imposed on the former Hughes aide.

Foley had initially restricted Meier's travel to a 100-miles radius of his home in Delta, British Columbia and within the boundary of the U.S.

Foley's refusal to lower Meier's bail has been based on the same objections filed by the government — that the former Hughes Tool Co. mining consultant had liquidated his real estate and investment holdings in the U.S. and had moved his family to Canada.

Meier, 39, who was in charge of mining claims acquisitions during the [illegible] some $20 million for them, was indicted here Aug. 9 by a federal grand jury on charges of evading income taxes on more then $270,000 in alleged income in 1968-69.

He was originally ordered to stand trial Nov. 12 but a motion by Wyshak, charging the government had used electronic surveillance during conversations between his client and the president's brother, Donald Nixon, required the government to ask for more time to check out the defense allegation.

Meier charged his indictment was "politically motivated."